WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for processing import/export transactions over a network, comprising the steps of:

inputting invoice data associated with an import/export transaction at a first terminal coupled to the network, wherein the invoice data includes a product identifier identifying a product to be transported in the import/export transaction;

transferring the invoice data from the first terminal to a server hosting a database of product identifiers and tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers;

matching the product identifier identifying the product to the product identifiers in the database; and

outputting a data record in response to the matching step, wherein the data record includes tariff classification information associated with the product identifier identifying the product.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of outputting the data record includes the step of e-mailing the data record to a second terminal coupled to the network.

1   3.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of outputting the data record

2   includes the step of downloading the data record to a second terminal coupled to the network.

1   4.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of outputting the data record

2   includes the step of printing the data record.

1   5.   The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the data record is downloaded in response

2   to access of the data record in the server by a second terminal using a web browser.

1   6.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the inputting step further comprises the step

2   of:

3   electronically transmitting the invoice data from the first terminal to the server.

1   7.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the inputting step further comprises

2   the step of inputting the invoice data into a web site associated with the database.

1   8.   The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

2   updating the database from a third terminal coupled to the network.

1   9.   The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

2   recording results of the matching step into a transaction database hosted by the server.

merchant's copy of receipt = recording

1   10.   A system for processing import/export transactions over a network, comprising:

2   means for inputting invoice data associated with an import/export transaction at a first

3 terminal coupled to the network, wherein the invoice data includes a product identifier

4 identifying a product to be transported in the import/export transaction;

5   means for transferring the invoice data from the first terminal to a server hosting a

6 database of product identifiers and tariff classification information particular to each of the

7 product identifiers;

8   means for matching the product identifiers identifying the product to the product

9 identifiers in the database; and

10   means for outputting a data record in response to the matching of the product identifier

11 identifying the product to the product identifiers in the database, wherein the data record

12 includes tariff classification information associated with the product identifiers identifying the

13 product.

1   11.   The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the outputting means includes a means for

2 e-mailing the data record to a second terminal coupled to the network.

- 22 -

1   12.   The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the outputting means includes a means for

2   downloading the data record to a second terminal coupled to the network.

1   13.   The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the outputting means includes a means for

2   printing the data record.

1   14.   The system as recited in claim 12, wherein the data record is downloaded in response

2   to access of the data record in the server by the second terminal using a web browser, wherein

3   the network is the Internet.

1   15.   The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the inputting means further comprises:

2   means for electronically transmitting the invoice data from the first terminal to the server.

1   16.   The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the inputting means further comprises means

2   for inputting the invoice data into a web site associated with the database.

1   17.   The system as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

2   means for updating the database from a third terminal coupled to the network.

1   18. The system as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

2   means for recording results of the matching step into a transaction database hosted by

3 the server.

1   19.   A system for processing import/export transactions over the Internet, comprising:

2   a server, coupled to the Internet, hosting a database of product identifiers and

3   corresponding import/export transaction information.

4   a first computer, coupled to the Internet, operable for uploading invoice data, containing

5   at least one product identifier associated with an import/export item, to the server over the

6   Internet;

7   a program operable for matching the at least one product identifier with a product

8   identifier contained in the database of product identifiers and outputting a data record including

9   import/export transaction information corresponding to the at least one product identifier, and

10   a second computer, coupled to the Internet, operable for accessing the data record

11   over the Internet.

1   20.   The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the first computer uploads the invoice data

2   via a web link associated with the server.

1   21.   The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the second computer accesses the data

2   record via web link between the second computer and the server.

1   22.   The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the data record is transformed into a

2   customs report for transmittal to a customs entity.

1   23.   The system as recited in claim 19, further comprising:

2   a program operable for updating the database.

1   24.   A computer program product adaptable for storage on a computer readable medium

2   and operable for processing an import/export transaction over the Internet, comprising:

3   first programming steps operable for establishing a first web page, accessible by a first

4   user at a first terminal coupled to the Internet using a web browser, that permits the first user

5   to input invoice data associated with an import/export transaction, wherein the invoice data

6   includes a product identifier for a product to be transported in the import/export transaction;

7   second programming steps operable for matching the product identifier included in the

8   invoice data to a database of product identifiers and corresponding tariff classifications resulting

9   in an output of a data record containing a tariff classification matched with the product identifier

10   identifying the product to be transported in the import/export transaction; and

11   third programming steps operable for establishing a second web page, accessible by

12   a second user at a second terminal coupled to the Internet using a web browser, that permits

13   the second user to output the data record through the second web page.

1   25.   The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the database is stored

2   on a server coupled to the Internet.

- 27 -

1   26.   The computer program product as recited in claim 24, further comprising:

2   fourth programming steps operable for establishing a third web page, accessible by a

3   third user at a third terminal coupled to the Internet using a web browser, that permits the third

4   user to update the product identifiers and corresponding tariff classifications in the database.